

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Sioux Falls Lutheran School** offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch costs **Preschool \$4.60, K-8 \$5.40, 9-12 \$6.00; your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.** Reduced-price for lunch is \$.40. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or TANF are eligible for free meals
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines; your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2024-2025			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$536
2	\$37,814	\$3,152	\$728
3	\$47,767	\$3,981	\$919
4	\$57,720	\$4,810	\$1,110
5	\$67,673	\$5,640	\$1,302
6	\$77,626	\$6,469	\$1,493
7	\$87,579	\$7,299	\$1,685
8	\$97,532	\$8,128	\$1,876
Each additional person:	\$9,953	\$830	\$192

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call **Deborah R. Pankow at (605) 335-1923** or e-mail dpankow@sflutherschool.com.
3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Deborah R. Pankow, SNP Director, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, 6715 S. Boe Lane, Sioux Falls, SD 57108.**
4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No. But please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Deborah R. Pankow, 6715 S. Boe Lane, Sioux Falls, SD 57108, (605) 335-1923, dpankow@sflutherschool.com** right away so those children get benefits, too.
5. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? **YES.** Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
6. I GET WIC OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC or Medicaid **may** be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. WIC and Medicaid are **not** automatic qualifications. Please send in an application.
7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.